

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

We Claim:

1. (currently amended) A stent having a metallic, ~~relatively~~ at least partially radiolucent self-expanding carrier structure comprising a cut out metal tube at least partially of a titanium-nickel alloy, and at least one marker element which includes comparatively radiopaque material, wherein the ~~[[the]]~~ marker element is attached to the rest of the carrier structure and the radiopaque material is completely enclosed by a cover layer of a material other than the radiopaque material, the cover layer including a metal or a metal compound including the titanium-nickel alloy.
2. (currently amended) A stent having a metallic, at least partially radiolucent carrier structure comprising a cut out metal tube, and at least one marker element which includes comparatively radiopaque material, wherein the marker element is attached to the rest of the carrier structure and the radiopaque material is completely enclosed by a cover layer of a material other than the radiopaque material, the cover layer including a metal or a metal compound ~~as set forth in claim 1~~, wherein the stent ~~has a carrier structure which is produced by cutting out~~ includes legs and apertures for marker elements ~~from a metal tube~~ and wherein the marker elements are welded into said apertures.
3. (currently amended) A stent as set forth in claim 2 ~~[[1]]~~, wherein the stent has a self-expanding carrier structure.

4. (previously presented) A stent as set forth in claim 3, wherein the carrier structure includes a shape memory metal which changes its shape at a change temperature, wherein the stent is of such a design configuration that the stent retains a compressed condition below the change temperature and assumes an expanded condition above the change temperature.
5. (previously presented) A stent as set forth in claim 1, wherein the cover layer contains silicon carbide (SiC).
6. (currently amended) A stent as set forth in claim 1, wherein the metallic carrier structure cover layer is formed ~~by a~~ from the metal or the metal compound which ~~forms~~ the cover layer includes ~~metallie carrier structure~~ and ~~into which~~ wherein the radiopaque material is ~~placed~~ attached to the carrier structure by the cover layer.
7. (currently amended) A stent having a metallic, at least partially radiolucent carrier structure comprising a cut out metal tube, and at least one marker element which includes comparatively radiopaque material, wherein the marker element is attached to the rest of the carrier structure and the radiopaque material is completely enclosed by a cover layer of a material other than the radiopaque material, the cover layer including a metal or a metal compound as set forth in claim 6, wherein the cover layer comprises a hollow wire and the marker element comprises radiopaque material filling the hollow wire a lumen of a tube formed from the metal of the carrier structure.

8. (currently amended) A stent as set forth in claim 7, wherein the wire ~~tube~~ forms at least a part of the carrier structure.
9. (previously presented) A stent as set forth in claim 8, wherein the marker element forms at least a part of the carrier structure in the region of a longitudinal end of the stent.
10. (previously presented) A stent as set forth in claim 9, wherein the marker element is welded to the rest of the carrier structure in the region of a longitudinal end of the stent.
11. (currently amended) A stent as set forth in claim 2 [[1]], wherein the metal forming the carrier structure is at least partially a titanium nickel alloy.
12. (previously presented) A stent as set forth in claim 1, wherein the radiopaque material contains gold, platinum or palladium.
13. (previously presented) A stent as set forth in claim 2, wherein the stent has a self-expanding carrier structure.
14. (previously presented) A stent as set forth in claim 13, wherein the carrier structure includes a shape memory metal which changes its shape at a change temperature, wherein the stent is of such a design configuration that the stent retains a compressed condition below the change temperature and assumes an expanded condition above the change temperature.

15. (previously presented) A stent as set forth in claim 1, wherein the marker element forms at least a part of the carrier structure in the region of a longitudinal end of the stent.
16. (previously presented) A stent as set forth in claim 15, wherein the marker element is welded to the rest of the carrier structure in the region of a longitudinal end of the stent.
17. (previously presented) A stent as set forth in claim 5, wherein the marker element forms at least a part of the carrier structure in the region of a longitudinal end of the stent.
18. (previously presented) A stent as set forth in claim 17, wherein the marker element is welded to the rest of the carrier structure in the region of a longitudinal end of the stent.
19. (withdrawn) A stent as set forth in claim 5, wherein the marker element forms at least a part of the carrier structure in the region of a longitudinal end of the stent.
20. (currently amended) A method of treating a patient, the method comprising implanting a self-expanding stent into the patient, wherein the stent comprises a cut out metal tube at least partially of titanium-nickel alloy and at least one marker element, and wherein the at least one marker element includes comparatively ~~radiopaque~~ radiopaque material and further wherein the marker element is attached to the rest of the carrier structure and the radiopaque material is completely enclosed by a cover layer of a material other than the radiopaque material and the cover layer including a metal or a metal compound including the titanium-nickel alloy.